

## DIGEST

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SB 380 Reengrossed

2018 Regular Session

Bishop

Present law provides for the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students as a program of merit scholarships for students attending certain postsecondary education institutions who meet specific ACT score and high school grade point average (GPA) and core curriculum requirements. Provides for Opportunity, Performance, and Honors Awards (eight semesters) and TOPS-Tech Awards (two years). Proposed law creates a new award, the TOPS Second Chance Award, which provides an award at the Opportunity level for two years for students who meet all requirements for initial eligibility for an Opportunity Award except for the ACT score and then meet certain requirements in their first two years of college. Requires a student to meet the following requirements for initial eligibility for the Second Chance Award: attain at least a 2.50 grade point average (GPA) based on the high school core curriculum required to qualify for an Opportunity Award, score at least a 17 on the ACT, and meet the following criteria:

- (1) Graduate from high school during or after the 2021-22 school year and not accept a TOPS-Tech Award.
- (2) Enroll in an eligible four-year institution not later than the semester, excluding summer semesters and sessions, immediately following the first anniversary of high school graduation.
- (3) Remain continuously enrolled in an eligible four-year institution and earn at least 60 hours of academic credit within two consecutive academic years.
- (4) Maintain a minimum cumulative GPA in college of 3.20 each academic year.
- (5) Remain enrolled in a baccalaureate program at an eligible four-year institution.

Proposed law provides that to maintain eligibility for the award, a student shall:

- (1) Make steady academic progress toward a degree.
- (2) Maintain at least a 2.50 GPA and continuous enrollment.
- (4) Have no criminal conviction, except for misdemeanor traffic violations.
- (5) Receive an honorable discharge or general discharge under honorable conditions if the student was in the U.S. Armed Forces and separated from such service.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 17:5002(E)(2) and 5025(intro. para.); Adds R.S. 17:5002(H), 5024(A)(1)(e) and (B)(1)(e), 5026.1, and 5042.1)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Education to the original bill

1. Makes technical changes.
2. Provides additional eligibility requirement.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the reengrossed bill:

1. Raise collegiate GPA required for initial qualification for TOPS Second Chance Award from 3.00 to 3.20.